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ORIGIN OF THE NAME  
OF MAINE

BY  
ALBERT MATTHEWS

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It is not a little singular that the origin of the names of some of our States, even the older ones, is still more or less in doubt. The State of Maine has a name which antedates the names of all other States except Virginia and Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> How Maine received its name has been a subject of controversy. But though much has been written on the subject, yet, as some of the points involved are obscure, as some historians still cling to a theory long ago exploded, as there appears even now to be a hesitancy on the part of many other historians in accepting what is without doubt the true origin, and as a thorough account of the matter has apparently never been written, an apology for a new presentation of the case is hardly needed.

In the charter granted by Charles I to Sir Ferdinando Gorges on April 3, 1639, occur these words:

Know YE therefore that of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge & mere Motion, We . . . by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs & Successors do give, grant & confirm unto the said Sir Ferdinando Gorges . . . all that Part, Purpart, & Portion of the Main Land of New England afore-said . . . as also all the Islands & Isletts lying within five Leagues of the

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<sup>1</sup> The name Virginia, as is of course well known, was, when given by Queen Elizabeth at the time she knighted Raleigh (January 6, 1584-85), applied to an indefinite tract of territory north of Florida. The name Massachusetts occurs in Capt. John Smith's Description of New England, published in 1616. The name Connecticut (under the form Quonochtauct) is found in Winthrop's Journal under date of April 1, 1631. The Connecticut River was named the Fresh River by the Dutch, and continued to be so called by them long after the adoption by the English of the name Connecticut.



Main all along the aforesaid Coasts . . . all which s<sup>d</sup> Part Purpart or Portion of the said Main Land, & all & every the Premises herein before named We do for us Our Heirs & Successors create & incorporate into one Province or County, And We do name, ordain & appoint that the Portion of the Main Land & Premises aforesaid shall forever hereafter be called & named the Province or County of Maine, & not by any other Name or Names whatsoever.<sup>1</sup>

So far as I know it was not until the close of the eighteenth century that a theory was advanced in regard to the origin of this title. In 1795 Sullivan said:

Gorges and Mason, supposed that they had now their enemies under their feet, and agreeing to divide their territory, Gorges, in the year 1639, obtained from the King a very extraordinary grant of all the lands between the river Piscataqua, and the river Kenebeck or Sagadahock, and extending one hundred and twenty miles into the country from the sea. This was granted under the name of the Province of Maine. Prior to this grant, the name of Province, or County of Maine, was never known.<sup>2</sup>

A little farther on, but still referring to the year 1639, Sullivan remarked:

The territory was then called the Province of Mayne, by way of a compliment to the queen of Charles I. who was a daughter of France, and owned as her private estate, a province there, called the Province of Meyne, now called the Province of Maine. But since the general government has made our territory a district, it has lost one of the letters which formerly was used, and is now called Main.<sup>3</sup>

In 1803 Abiel Holmes, copying Sullivan, said: "The name of the Province of Maine was given in compliment to the queen of Charles I, who owned, as her private estate in France, the Province of Meyne."<sup>4</sup> In 1830 George Folsom, who later changed his opinion, said that

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<sup>1</sup> Documentary History of the State of Maine, vii. 223, 224. In the Century Cyclopaedia of Names is this: "Maine. [In the charter granted by Charles I. in 1639 named 'The Province or Countie of *Mayne*,' because regarded as a part of 'the Mayne Lande of New England.']" This reason, it is perhaps unnecessary to point out, is not found in the charter itself.

<sup>2</sup> History of Maine, p. 122.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 307.

<sup>4</sup> American Annals, i. 311 note.

“The name was bestowed in compliment to the queen of England, a daughter of Henry IV. of France, who was connected by title or estate with the province of Meyne in France.”<sup>1</sup> In 1832 Williamson wrote:

The provincial *name of MAINE*, though one by which this section of country was at that time *frequently called*, was chosen, probably, in compliment to the queen, who had inherited a province of the *same name* in France. For this double reason, it was a name preferable to the old one, taken from the county of Somerset, in which the patentee had his residence and perhaps his birth.<sup>2</sup>

In an address delivered at Brunswick, Maine, on September 6, 1846, George Folsom said that “The next event of general interest in the history of the State, is the confirmation of the patent from the Council of Plymouth to Gorges by a new charter from the Crown, in which the territory is first styled the PROVINCE OF MAINE, of which he was made Lord Palatine.”<sup>3</sup> In a footnote, after quoting Sullivan, Folsom wrote:

Such is the prevailing impression as to the origin of the name finally given by Gorges to his province, but unfortunately for its accuracy, the province of Maine in France did not appertain to Queen Henrietta Maria, but to the crown; nor is it discoverable that she possessed any interest in that province.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> History of Saco and Biddeford, p. 53.

<sup>2</sup> History of the State of Maine, i. 277. Early in 1635 the Council of the Plymouth Company decided to return its charter into the hands of the King; but before doing so, an agreement was made on February 3, 1634-35, for the several divisions of the seacoasts of New England. In this division no name is given to that portion which became Gorges's, but he soon (in 1636) called it New Somerset or New Somersetshire. For the history of the name of Somerset as employed in Maine, see Publications of this Society, vi. 61-70.

Folsom is not the only one who has fallen into error in calling Gorges “Lord Palatine.” Gov. Chamberlain did the same (Maine: her Place in History, p. 54), and also a writer in London Notes and Queries, Ninth Series, xii. 23. Such a title, however, was not used by Gorges himself. See Publications of this Society, viii. 206-207.

<sup>3</sup> Collections of the Maine Historical Society, ii. 58. Folsom adds: “The biography of this queen recently published by Miss Strickland, is a work of intense interest and apparently drawn from original and authentic sources.” The allusion would seem to indicate that Folsom, who in 1830 (as quoted in the text) had held that Henrietta Maria was “connected by title or estate with

How the notion that a princess, who in 1639 was a younger sister of the King of France (Louis XIII), "owned as her private estate" or "inherited" a French province should have occurred to any one, it is not easy to see. Yet in spite of the pointing out of the error by Folsom as long ago as 1846 — reinforced by W. S. Southgate in 1853,<sup>1</sup> by Palfrey in 1859,<sup>2</sup> by Bryant and Gay in 1876,<sup>3</sup> and by Governor Joshua L. Chamberlain<sup>4</sup> in 1876 — Sullivan's notion has been often repeated and is still entertained. "When he," wrote W. Willis in 1857, referring to Gorges, "obtained a confirmation of his title from Charles I, in 1639 with powers of government, he gave it the name of Maine, in compliment to the Queen, a daughter of France, who held the Province of Mayne in that country as her dowry."<sup>5</sup> "Maine," said an anonymous writer in 1872, "derived its name it is said, from the province of Maine, in France, and was so called in compliment to the Queen of Charles the First, Henrietta of France, who owned that province."<sup>6</sup> "The queen of England," declared John S. C. Abbott in 1875, "had inherited a province of that name in France."<sup>7</sup> "The name of the territory," remarked George J. Varney in 1890, alluding to Gorges's charter of 1639, "under the new charter was changed to 'Maine,' in honor of the Queen, whose patrimonial estate as Princess of France, was the French province of *Mayne*."<sup>8</sup>

In 1850 Susan Fenimore Cooper gave a somewhat different twist to Sullivan's theory, writing:

Maine, the former satellite of Massachusetts, was named by the French colonists after the fertile province on the banks of the Loire, . . . The French have generally given respectable names, either repetitions of personal titles, or of local names, or else descriptive words: la Louisiane, les Carolines, le Maine, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; for, as

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the province of Meyne in France," changed his opinion as a result of something said by Miss Strickland; but in her sketch of Henrietta Maria (*Lives of the Queens of England*, 1845, viii. 1-266) she apparently does not mention the French province of Maine.

<sup>1</sup> Collections of the Maine Historical Society, iii. 31 note.

<sup>2</sup> History of New England, i. 525 note.

<sup>3</sup> History of the United States, i. 337 note.

<sup>4</sup> Maine: her Place in History (1877), p. 54 note.

<sup>5</sup> Collections of the Maine Historical Society, vol. v. p. xxi.

<sup>6</sup> American Historical Record, i. 211.

<sup>7</sup> History of Maine, p. 107.

<sup>8</sup> Brief History of Maine (second edition), p. 42.

we have already observed, leaving a good Indian name is equal to giving one of our own.<sup>1</sup>

In speaking of "the fertile province on the banks of the Loire," Miss Cooper apparently confused the ancient province of Maine, which was not on the Loire, with the modern department of "Maine-et-Loire," which is. Passing over two or three other statements in the above passage which are open to criticism, it is merely necessary to remark that our Maine obtained its name from the early English explorers and not from the French colonists, by whom indeed it was apparently never called "le Maine."

Though Folsom and subsequent writers have indicated that Sullivan's theory about the French province of Maine is untenable, yet apparently no one of them has shown exactly what the history of that province has been. Hence the following account from the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* is pertinent:

Hugh Capet made the countship of Maine hereditary in the person of Hugh I. . . . The people of Le Mans availed themselves of the absence of the Conqueror in England to rise against him, and were ultimately successful in gaining their freedom. Maine became united with Anjou by the marriage of its heiress with Fulk of Anjou, father of Geoffrey Plantagenet. Henry II. of England, the son of Geoffrey, was born at Le Mans. On the confiscation of the estates of King John, Maine passed to Philip Augustus of France; by Louis IX., the grandson of Philip, it was handed over in 1245 to Charles, count of Provence, afterwards king of Naples; and in 1328 it was reunited to the domains of the crown by Philip of Valois, who was count of Maine. It was again separated by his grandson Louis of Anjou, the brother of King Charles V. During the Hundred Years' War, Maine was a continual battlefield; the English were driven out by Dunois, who took possession of Le Mans in 1417. In 1481, on the death of Charles of Maine, the last scion of the house of Anjou, Maine was again united to the French crown by Louis XI.

But we are not yet done with Sullivan. "Prior to this grant," he says, meaning the charter of April 3, 1639, "the name of Province, or County of Maine, was never known."<sup>2</sup> Though this statement has been repeated by Williamson (1832), Folsom (1846),<sup>3</sup> Southgate

<sup>1</sup> *Rural Hours*, pp. 479, 483.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 367, above.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 368, above.

(1853), Willis (1857), R. K. Sewall (1859),<sup>1</sup> Palfrey (1859), Abbott (1875), Bryant and Gay (1876), and by Varney (1890), it is nevertheless an error.<sup>2</sup> On August 22, 1622, the Council for New England made to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Captain John Mason a grant in which occur the words:

Now this Indenture witnesseth that ye s<sup>d</sup> President and Councill . . . doe give grant bargaine sell assigne alien sett over and confirme unto ye s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Ferdinando Gorges & Cap<sup>t</sup> Iohn Mason their heirs and assignes all that part of ye maine land in New England lying vpon ye Sea Coast betwixt ye rivers of Merimack & Sagadahock . . . w<sup>ch</sup> said porcons of lands w<sup>th</sup> ye appurtenances the said S<sup>r</sup> Ferdinando Gorges and Capt Iohn Mason w<sup>th</sup> the consent of ye President & Councill intend to name ye PROVINCE OF MAINE.<sup>3</sup>

Here, then, in 1622, and not in 1639, we first find the title Province of Maine. Before showing how that fact, unknown until 1860, affects the question of the origin of the name of Maine, it will be appropriate to explain how writers previous to 1860 were led astray. It is probable that the early charters<sup>4</sup> relating to Maine and to New Hampshire are more numerous and more perplexing than those relating to any other colony; and whoever has had occasion to consult them knows how tedious is the process of examination and how many are the pitfalls. If, even at the present day, when doubtless all the charters extant can be consulted in print, historians yet make mistakes, it is small wonder that hopeless confusion and uncertainty existed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when few had been printed and the exact contents of many were unknown. Thus it was not until the publication in 1860 of the first volume of the Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, 1574-1660, that it became known that the title Province of Maine occurs in the grant of August 22, 1622, and it was not until 1862 that the grant was printed in full.<sup>5</sup> On

<sup>1</sup> Ancient Dominions of Maine, p. 124.

<sup>2</sup> Gov. Chamberlain makes a curious slip. In one place he speaks of the grant of August 10, 1622, "which the indenture itself states 'they intend to call the PROVINCE OF MAINE,'" yet a little later declares that in the charter of April 3, 1639, the territory "was now for the first time, and by charter, named the PROVINCE OF MAINE" (Maine: her Place in History, pp. 44, 54).

<sup>3</sup> Documentary History of the State of Maine, vii. 66, 67, 68.

<sup>4</sup> The word "charter" as here used includes charters, grants, and patents, as it is impossible to distinguish between the terms.

<sup>5</sup> In J. A. Poor's Vindication of the Claims of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, pp. 121-123.

November 17, 1629, the Council for New England made to Gorges and Mason a grant of territory which "the said Sr Ferdinando Gorges and Cap<sup>t</sup> In<sup>o</sup> Mason with the consent of the president & Councill intend to name THE PROVINCE OF LACONIA."<sup>1</sup> In 1784 Belknap confused the two grants, and, speaking of the grant of August 10, 1622, said: "The next year another grant was made, to Gorges and Mason jointly, of all the lands between the rivers Merrimack and Sagadahock, extending back to the great lakes and river of Canada, and this was called LACONIA."<sup>2</sup> It has been stated that "all writers, until recently, have called the grant of Aug. 10, 1622, the *Laconia* grant;"<sup>3</sup> but Sullivan, though he had no exact information about the grant of November 17, 1629, pointed out that Belknap must be mistaken.<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless, Belknap's error has been repeated by Williamson (1832),<sup>5</sup> Folsom (1846),<sup>6</sup> Southgate (1853),<sup>7</sup> Palfrey (1859),<sup>8</sup> Bancroft (1883),<sup>9</sup> and Varney (1890).<sup>10</sup>

Let us now return to the grant of August 10, 1622, and its bearing on Sullivan's theory of the origin of the name. In 1639 Henrietta Maria was the wife of King Charles, but in 1622 her future husband was merely Prince Charles and unmarried. It is true that his marriage with Henrietta Maria had been broached in 1620, but it was not seriously considered until 1624 and did not take place until 1625. Though attention was called to this point by Charles W. Tuttle as long ago as 1872, yet his remarks have apparently escaped the notice of all subsequent writers on the subject. He said:

The name, Maine, was first authoritatively and deliberately applied to that part of the State lying west of the Kennebec River, in the charter

<sup>1</sup> Documentary History of the State of Maine, vii, 102.

<sup>2</sup> History of New Hampshire, i, 8.

<sup>3</sup> S. T. Haven, History of Grants under the Great Council for New England, in Early History of Massachusetts (1867), p. 150. Charles Deane called attention to Belknap's mistake in Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for April 21, 1867, p. 56 note, and *ibid.* for October 21, 1868, p. 31.

<sup>4</sup> History of Maine, pp. 267-269. Yet Sullivan himself seems to have been hopelessly confused. Cf. pp. 111, 119, 301.

<sup>5</sup> History of the State of Maine, i, 225.

<sup>6</sup> Collection of the Maine Historical Society, ii, 52.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 39.

<sup>8</sup> History of New England, i, 205.

<sup>9</sup> History of the United States (1876), i, 257; *ibid.* (1883), i, 217.

<sup>10</sup> Brief History of Maine, p. 31.

of the great council for New-England, granting this territory to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Captain John Mason, dated August 10, 1622. In this charter it is styled the "Province of Maine." This event was nearly two years before the Princess Henrietta Maria of France was thought of for a wife to Prince Charles of England. At the time this name was inserted in the charter, a marriage treaty was pending, and had been for some years, between the courts of England and Spain, having for its object the marriage of Prince Charles and the Infanta Maria, daughter of Philip III. of Spain. A marriage of these royal parties was expected until early in the year 1624. It is clear from this, and other circumstances that could be mentioned, that the naming of Maine had nothing to do with Henrietta Maria of France, as alleged.<sup>1</sup>

Though this statement is correct in general, yet Mr. Tuttle was mistaken in saying that the naming of Maine occurred "nearly two years before the Princess Henrietta Maria of France was thought of for a wife to Prince Charles of England." The negotiations entered into by James I in regard to a marriage between his sons Henry and Charles and the daughters of Henry IV of France and of Philip III of Spain, were many and various. In 1611 John Digby (created Earl of Bristol in 1622) was sent ambassador to Madrid to negotiate a marriage between Prince Henry and the Infanta Anne (who later became the wife of Louis XIII) or the Infanta Maria. An interesting letter, in which both ladies are mentioned, written by Prince Henry himself on July 29, 1612, has been printed;<sup>2</sup> but his own death in the following November of course put an end to that negotiation. At the age of sixteen, Charles was created Prince of Wales in 1616; but long before that date negotiations were opened in France for marrying him to the Princess Christina (a sister of Henrietta Maria, and later the wife of Victor Amadeus I, Duke of Savoy), and in November, 1613, the scheme was in a fair way to a conclusion. In 1614, again in 1617, and once more in 1622, Digby was sent to Spain to negotiate a marriage between Charles and the Infanta Maria; and on February 17, 1622-23, Charles started on his

<sup>1</sup> Boston Transcript, June 8, 1872, p. 6/4. When this letter was reprinted in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register for July, 1875, xxix. 243-244, it was preceded by an editorial note stating: "We learn that Mr. Tuttle is preparing a full account of the origin of the name of Maine." So far as I am aware, that account was never written.

<sup>2</sup> H. Ellis's Original Letters, Second Series (1827), iii. 226-228.

ill-fated journey to Madrid, passing through Paris, where he saw for the first time his future wife.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, however, the French proposals had not been allowed entirely to drop. In 1618 James Hay (created Earl of Carlisle in 1622) was sent to Paris to demand the hand of Christina for Charles.<sup>2</sup> In 1620 a proposal to marry Henrietta Maria to Charles came from France itself; and on the breaking off of the Spanish treaty in 1624, Henry Rich (then Baron Kensington and in the same year created Earl of Holland) and James Hay (then Earl of Carlisle) were sent to Paris to complete the negotiations. On May 1, 1625, five weeks after his accession to the throne, Charles was married by proxy, and on June 13 he received his bride at Canterbury.<sup>3</sup>

Though Williamson stated that the name of Maine "was chosen, probably, in compliment to the queen," yet both in his text and in

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Baxter says that "Charles, accompanied by the dissolute Buckingham, had seen and wooed the princess Maria, but, returning through France *incognito*, had stopped in Paris, and at a ball there had seen the French princess Henrietta" (Sir Ferdinando Gorges and his Province of Maine, Prince Society, i. 133). It was, however, on their journey to Madrid that the two travelled *incognito*. Charles left the Escorial September 2, 1623, sailed from Santander September 18, and landed at Portsmouth October 5. (Gardiner, Prince Charles and the Spanish Match, ii. 409, 413, 421.) In a letter dated Paris, February 22, 1622-23, Charles himself gave this description:

Since the closing of our last we have been at Court againe, (and that we might not hold you in paine, we assure you that we have not been knowen,) where we saw the young Queene, littell Monsieur, and Madame, at the practising of a Maske that is intended by the Queene to be presented to the Kinge, and in it ther daneed the Queene and Madame with as manie as made up nineteen faire dancing Ladies, amongst which the Queene is the handsomest, which hath wrought in me a greater desier to see her sister. (In H. Ellis's Original Letters, 1821, iii. 121-122.)

The wife of Louis XIII was Anne, sister of the Infanta Maria; "littell Monsieur" was Gaston, Duke of Orleans; "Madame" was the Princess Henrietta Maria. Henrietta Maria's sister Elizabeth married Philip IV of Spain. After the breaking off of the English marriage, the Infanta Maria married the Emperor Ferdinand III.

<sup>2</sup> In an account of an interview with Lady Carew, dated September 19, 1618, Sir Thomas Wilson said, referring to Queen Anne of England, that "Her Majesty said she would rather have the match with Mdme. Chretienne than the Spanish lady with all her gold" (Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1611-1618, p. 573).

<sup>3</sup> See the notices (by S. R. Gardiner) of Charles, Digby, Hay, and Henrietta Maria, and that of Rich (by C. H. Firth) in the Dictionary of National Biography; Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1611-1618, 1619-1623, 1623-1625.



a footnote he indicated its true origin.<sup>1</sup> "By reason of the great number of Islands in this quarter," he says in a footnote, "the shores, or coast, were frequently called 'the *Main*.'" He then cites three examples and thus concludes: "This expression, 'the *Main*,' is common in old authors." It was indeed common — so common that other examples would hardly be necessary were it not for the fact that historians have shown a singular hesitancy in accepting this origin of the name. "This eastern country," said Palfrey in 1859, "had commonly been called the *Mayne* [main] land, in distinction from the numerous islands on its coast, . . . and thus perhaps it was that Gorges's province obtained its name."<sup>2</sup> Tuttle wrote in 1872:

It seems reasonably certain that the State of Maine owes its name to no European State, province or personage, but to its own unique geographical features.<sup>3</sup> Years before the name appeared in this charter to Gorges and Mason, its territory, or the littoral part of it, was commonly designated by English mariners and writers, "*The Main*," variously spelt, to distinguish it from its insular parts lying off the shore. This origin of the name, proposed long ago, seems to be the true one.<sup>4</sup>

"Maine, like all the rest of the coast," declared Bryant and Gay in 1876, "was known as the 'Maine,' the mainland, and it is not unlikely that the word so much used by the early fishers on the coast, may thus have been permanently given to this part of it."<sup>5</sup> "There

<sup>1</sup> In his text (see p. 368, above) Williamson spoke of "the provincial name of Maine, though one by which this section of the country was at that time frequently called," etc. This statement is somewhat misleading. The word "main" was applied to the mainland along the coast, but it was not applied to the territory as such. Previous to the charter of April 1, 1639, the country was once and once only called "Maine" — namely, in the grant of August 10, 1622. Thus before 1639 a man at Boston or Plymouth would never have said that he was going "to Maine," meaning the present State of Maine. He might have said that he was "going to the main;" but that would have left the exact locality in doubt. See also note 3, below.

<sup>2</sup> History of New England, i. 525 note.

<sup>3</sup> In speaking of Maine's "own unique geographical features," Tuttle was using exaggerated language. Maine is not the only State in the Union that has islands along its coast, though it has more than any other. The word "main" was applied in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to the mainland along the entire Atlantic coast, from the Carolinas to Greenland. See also note 1, above.

<sup>4</sup> Boston Transcript, June 8, 1872, p. 6/4; New England Historical and Genealogical Register, xxix. 244.

<sup>5</sup> History of the United States, i. 337 note.

is little doubt," remarked Governor Chamberlain in 1876, "that the name arose in the natural distinction made in common speech between the islands then so much frequented, and the shoreland or the 'main.' The spelling furnishes no argument. The adjective was often spelled 'maine,' and the proper noun 'Main.'" <sup>1</sup> "'Maine' took its name," declared Charles Deane in 1884, "probably from the early designation, by the sailors and fishermen, of the main land — that is, 'the main,' — in distinction from the numerous islands on the coast." <sup>2</sup>

As, therefore, historians are not over-confident, and as the matter is after all a little perplexing, a few additional remarks will not be lacking in pertinency.<sup>3</sup>

The word "main" is used in two distinct senses which may be, and sometimes are, confused. First, it is elliptical for "main sea." This use is now poetical or figurative, as in Longfellow's Psalm of Life, "sailing o'er life's solemn main." Secondly, it is elliptical for "mainland," a sense now archaic. The phrase "main of America," meaning the continent of America, was formerly not uncommon; while the term "Spanish Main" is still often heard, though some-

<sup>1</sup> *Maine: her Place in History*, p. 54 note.

<sup>2</sup> *Narrative and Critical History of America*, iii. 363 note.

<sup>3</sup> The lack of certainty on the part of historians is doubtless due to the fact that this point has never received adequate treatment. Writers have asserted that the word "main" was frequently used for mainland, but have failed to furnish proof. "The name of 'Province of Maine,'" says Miss Mary F. Farnham, "is first used in the grant to Gorges and Mason, 1622; its origin is not difficult to trace in the frequent use of maine as applied to 'maine land,' and 'along the main'" (*Documentary History of the State of Maine*, vol. vii. p. xxi). And again, referring to the charter of April 3, 1639, she says: "The name 'Province of Maine' is repeated from the grant of 1622. By reference to the early charters it is easy to arrive at a correct idea of the origin of the name, which has survived all the changes of colonial rule, and is perpetuated in the phrase 'State of Maine'" (*Ibid.* vii. 222). It is obvious that nothing later than August 10, 1622, is of value. Now the word "main," in the sense of mainland, occurs only three times previous to that date in the documents printed by Miss Farnham, — namely, on March 3, 1619-20, November 3, 1620, and July 21, 1622. These extracts are quoted in the text, p. 379, below. Hence it is necessary to go to other documents than those given by Miss Farnham. Williamson (*History of the State of Maine*, i. 277 note), quotes three extracts, one from Smith's *Generall Historie of Virginia*, published in 1624, one from a document dated 1635, and one from a work written about 1680. These are of course too late. Palfrey (*History of New England*, i. 325 note) repeats two of Williamson's citations. In the present paper, for the first time so far as I am aware, full evidence on this point is given.

times it is erroneously used. Thus the fourth stanza in the *Wreck of the Hesperus*, as originally written, read:

Then up and spake an old Sailòr,  
Had sailed the Spanish Main,  
"I pray thee, put into yonder port,  
For I fear a hurricane."

When Longfellow discovered or had his attention called to the fact that the Spanish Main was land, not water, he altered the second line to "Had sailed to the Spanish Main."<sup>1</sup>

In the sense of mainland, examples of the word "main" will be found in the *Oxford English Dictionary* ranging from 1555 to 1891, though none have reference to this part of America. Some additional examples follow. In Gabriel Archer's account of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold's voyage to New England in 1602, the word is frequently so used, as thus:

A little from the supposed Iles appeared unto us an opening, with which we stood judging it to bee the end of that which Captaine Gosnoll descrieth from Cape Cod, . . . From this opening the Mayne lyeth Southwest, which coasting along we saw a disinhabited Iland which so afterwards appeared unto us: we bore with it, and named it Marthaes Vineyard, . . . the next morning wee sent off our Boate to discover another Cape, that lay betweene us and the Mayne, from which were a ledge of Rockes . . . This called wee Gosnolls Hope; the North banke whereof is the Mayne, which stretcheth East and West. . . . The one and thirtieth [of May], Captaine Gosnoll desirous to see the Maine, because of the distance, hee set sayle over; . . . This Maine is the goodliest Continent that ever we saw, promising more by farre then we any way did expect.<sup>2</sup>

Alluding to the same voyage, John Brereton wrote:

Hard by, wee espied seven Indians, and comming up to them, at first they expressed some feare; but being emboldned by our courteous usage,

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<sup>1</sup> "The poet found out, one day," writes W. J. Rolfe in the *Nation* of October 22, 1908, "that the Spanish Main was the mainland bordering on what he — like nine people out of ten — had supposed to be the sea called by that name" (lxxxvii. 383). Dr. Rolfe, however, does not indicate when the discovery was made. The reading is "Had sailed the Spanish Main" in Longfellow's *Poems*, 1842, ii. 43, and in his *Poems*, 1866, i. 95. In the *Poetical Works*, 1872, p. 40, the reading is "Had sailed to the Spanish Main." Hence the change was made in 1872 or between 1866 and 1872.

<sup>2</sup> Purchas his *Pilgrimes* (1906), xviii. 306, 307, 309.

and some trifles which we gave them, they followed us to a necke of Land, which wee imagined had beene severed from the Mayne: . . . all the Ilands, as also the Maine (where wee were) is all Rockie Grounds and broken Lands.<sup>1</sup>

In his account of a voyage made in 1603, Captain Martin Pring wrote:

At length comming to the Mayne in the latitude of 43. degrees and an halfe, we ranged the same to the South-west. . . . But meeting with no Sassafras, we left these places with all the foresaid Ilands, shaping our course for Savage Rocke, discovered the yeere before by Capitaine Gosnold, where going upon the Mayne we found people, with whom we had no long conversation, because here also we could find no Sassafras.<sup>2</sup>

In his account of Captain George Waymouth's voyage in 1605, James Rosier said:

From hence we might discerne many Ilands, and the maine Land, from the West South-west to the East North-east; and North North-east from us a great way as it then seemed (and as we after found it) up into the Maine, we might discerne very high Mountaines, although the Maine seemed but lowe Land.<sup>3</sup>

In his Description of New England, published in 1616, Captain John Smith remarked:

Thus you may see, of this 2000. miles more then halfe is yet vnknowne to any purpose: no, not so much as the borders of the Sea are yet certainly discovered. As for the goodness and true substances of the Land, wee are for most part yet altogether ignorant of them, vnlesse it bee those parts about the Bay of *Chisapauck*, and *Sagadahock*: but onely here and there wee touched or haue scene a little the edges of those large dominions, which doe stretch themselues into the Maine, God doth know how many thousand miles.<sup>4</sup>

In a letter written to Purchas on December 27, 1619, Captain Thomas Dermer said:

Departing hence, the next place we arrived at was Capaock, an Iland formerly di covered by the English, . . . the winde faire, I stood away

<sup>1</sup> Purchas his Pilgrimes (1906), xviii, 315.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. xviii, 323, 324.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. xviii, 338.

<sup>4</sup> Description of New England, Works (1884), p. 199.

shaping my course as the Coast led mee, till I came to the most Westerly part where the Coast began to fall away Southerly. In my way I discovered Land about thirtie leagues in length, heretofore taken for Mayne, where I feared I had beene imbayed, but by the helpe of an Indian I got to the Sea againe, through many crooked and streight passages. . . . Being thus overcharged with weather, I stood alongst the coast to seeke harbours, to attend a favourable gale to recover the streight, but being a harbourlesse Coast for ought we could then perceive, wee found no succour till wee arrived betwixt Cape Charles and the Maine on the East side the Bay Chestapeak, where in a wilde Roade wee anchored.<sup>1</sup>

In a petition for a charter of New England by the Northern Company of Adventurers, dated March 3, 1619-20, it is asked :

First, that the territories where yo<sup>r</sup> peticōners makes their plantacōn may be caled (as by the Prince His Highnes it hath bin named) NEW ENGLAND, that the boundes thereof may be settled from 40 to 45 degrees of Northerly latitude & soe from sea to sea through the maine as the coast lyeth.<sup>2</sup>

In the patent of New England, granted by James I on November 20, 1620, are the words :

And wee . . . do by these Presents absolutely give, grant, and confirm unto the said Councill, called the Councill established att Plymouth in the County of Devon for the planting, ruling, and governing of New-England in America, . . . that foresad Part of America, lying, and being in Breadth from ffourty Degrees of Northerly Latitude from the Equinoctiall Line, to ffourty-eight Degrees of the said Northerly Latitude inclusively, and in Length of, and within all the Breadth aforesaid, throughout all the Maine Lands from Sea to Sea, together also, with the Firme Lands, Soyles, Grounds, Havens, Ports, . . . Fishings, Mines, and Mineralls, . . . and all, and singular other Comodities, Jurisdictions, Royalties, Priviliges, Franchises, and Prehemineneces, both within the same Tract of Land upon the Maine, and also within the said Islands and Seas adjoining.<sup>3</sup>

In a minute of the Council for New England made on July 24, 1622, we read :

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<sup>1</sup> Purchas his Pilgrimes, xix. 132, 133.

<sup>2</sup> Documentary History of the State of Maine, vii. 17.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. vii. 33.

It is ordered and agreed that the Lord Duke of Lenox have for his devident and part of the Mayne Land of New England in America, from ye middle of Sawahquatoek towards Sagadahoc, and his bounds that way to reach mid way betweene Sawahquatoek and Sagadahoc upon ye Coast. And to reach 30 miles backward into ye Mayne. And 3 Leagues into ye sea. . . . The Earle of Arundele to have for his devident from ye middle of Sagadahoc, and to goe northeast soe much on his side, as Mr. Secretary<sup>1</sup> goes on y<sup>e</sup> other side upon y<sup>e</sup> Coast. And to reach miles backward into ye Mayne, and 3 leagues into ye Sea.<sup>2</sup>

It would be useless to continue these extracts, which could be adduced indefinitely. Enough have been given to show that long before the appearance in 1622 of the title Province of Maine, the word "main" in the sense of mainland had been in common use among the early explorers along the New England coast.

#### NOTE ON THE NAME OF MARIANA.

On March 9, 1621-22, Capt. John Mason received from the Council for New England a grant of territory lying between the Naumkeag and the Merrimac, "w<sup>th</sup> said por̄cons of Lands w<sup>th</sup> the appurten̄ces the s<sup>d</sup> Jholm Mason with the consent of the President and Councill intendeth to name Mariana."<sup>3</sup> In 1890 Mr. James P. Baxter wrote: "No reason has heretofore been assigned why Mason gave the name Mariana to his possessions between the Naumkeag and Merrimac; but it seems evident that this name was bestowed upon it in honor of the Spanish princess Maria, whose proposed marriage with Prince Charles was then the principal topic of discussion."<sup>4</sup> Mr. Baxter has overlooked a letter written June 7, 1872, in which Charles W. Tuttle said: "I may add, in

<sup>1</sup> Sir George Calvert, later first Baron Baltimore.

<sup>2</sup> Documentary History of the State of Maine, vii. 61-62. In a letter written to Mason on March 18, 1631, Gorges said:

As for the ptic you write of that hath lived w<sup>th</sup> the Dutch soe longe time I wishe yo<sup>u</sup> would not omit to keepe him on reasonable condicions untill my coming vpp [to London], in the meane while that you will informe your selfe of the strength they haue where they live, how furnished, & guided for, how farr vpp, into the Maine they bee, What other Commodity they finde besides their Trade of furs, what Cattle, what Horses, and what carnages they make use of w<sup>th</sup> what people they hold Coraspondancy w<sup>th</sup>all, and what Enemyes they have, and in what parts of the Countie ther Enemyes, or freinds are. (Sir Ferdinando Gorges and his Province of Maine, Prince Society, iii. 254.)

In the index to that volume "the Maine," which of course means mainland, is entered under "Maine," as if it referred to the Province of Maine.

<sup>3</sup> Capt. John Mason (Prince Society), p. 171.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Ferdinando Gorges and his Province of Maine (Prince Society), i. 124 note.

this connection, that I expect to show, in my life of Captain John Mason, soon to go to press, that this Spanish Infanta was designedly complimented about this time in the naming of a district in New England, granted by the great council, a curious fact, overlooked by historians."<sup>1</sup> Mr. Tuttle died in 1881, and his Capt. John Mason, edited by John W. Dean, was not published by the Prince Society until 1887. Unfortunately the notes which Mr. Tuttle had prepared on this point were not preserved, or at least are not incorporated in the printed work, and so the proofs he promised in 1872 are not forthcoming. Nor does Mr. Baxter offer proof.

I would call attention to another "curious fact, overlooked by historians" — namely, that so far as the name Mariana is concerned it might have been derived from Henrietta Maria equally well as from the Infanta Maria. Indeed, Mariana was the name proposed for Maryland by Charles himself. The story is thus told by Scharf:

Lord Baltimore, it is said, drew up the charter with his own hand and left a blank in it for the name "which he designed should be *Crescentia*, or, the land of Crescence, but leaving it to his majesty to insert." "The King, before he signed the charter, put the question to his Lordship, what he should call it, who replied that he desired to have it called something in honor of his majesty's name, but that he was deprived of that happiness, there being already a province in those parts called Carolina."<sup>2</sup> "Let us, therefore," says the King, "give it a name in honor of the Queen; what think you of *Mariana*?" To this his lordship expressed his dissent, it being the name of a Jesuit, who had written against monarchy.<sup>3</sup> Whereupon the King proposed *Terra Mariæ*, in English, Maryland, which was concluded on and inserted in the bill.<sup>4</sup> And thus the proposed colony was named in honor of Henrietta Maria, daughter of Henry IV., king of France and Navarre, and sister of Louis XIII., who was usually called Queen Mary by writers of the day. Thus Laud writes in his *Diary* (p. 6); "An. 1625, June 12, Queen Mary crossing the sea, landed upon our shores about seven o'clock in the evening." Similar instances are to be found in Fuller's *Church History*.<sup>5</sup>

Secretary Conway in a letter dated November 22, 1624, and King Charles in a letter dated May 1, 1625, speak of the Princess as "Lady Marie."<sup>6</sup> "The queen of Charles I.," writes Miss Strickland, "is known to all readers of history by the name of Henrietta Maria; but she was not called so by her husband or at her own court. The king chose to call her Mary; and when those in his household remonstrated with him that this name, owing to the Marian persecutions, had become very unpopular to English ears, he still persisted in calling his bride 'Mary,' declaring that the land should find blessings connected with her name which would counteract all previous evils."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Boston Transcript, June 8, 1872, p. 6/4; New England Historical and Genealogical Register, xxix. 244.

<sup>2</sup> This is an allusion to the grant to Sir Robert Heath on October 30, 1629, of Carolana (or Carolina). No settlements were made under it.

<sup>3</sup> Juan de Mariana (1536-1623).

<sup>4</sup> Scharf gives as his authorities manuscripts in the British Museum.

<sup>5</sup> History of Maryland, i. 51-52.

<sup>6</sup> Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1623-1625, p. 387; *ibid.* 1625-1626, p. 16.

<sup>7</sup> Lives of the Queens of England, viii. 33.

According to Mr. Tuttle, "in the spring or summer of 1621, Mason returned into England;"<sup>1</sup> and he obtained his grant of Mariana on March 9, 1621-22. Mr. Baxter may be right in saying that the proposed marriage of the Infanta Maria with Prince Charles "was then the principal topic of discussion;" though there is little about it until somewhat later in the letters and documents printed in Ellis's *Original Letters*, in Birch's *Court and Times of James the First*, and in the *Calendars of State Papers, Domestic*, 1619-1623.

It is not in the least my purpose to throw doubt upon the explanation proposed by Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Baxter, but merely to show that the matter is not quite so simple as it seems.

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<sup>1</sup> Capt. John Mason (*Prince Society*), p. 14.

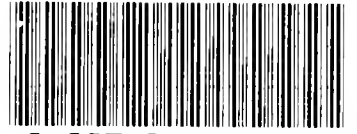








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